

# Chris W. Surprenant

Department of Philosophy  
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## Education

Ph.D. in Philosophy, Boston University, Fall 2005 – Spring 2009  
Dissertation: "Kantian Virtue and Civil Society," directed by Manfred Kuehn  
B.A., *magna cum laude*, Colby College, Fall 2001 – Spring 2005  
Double Major in philosophy (with honors and distinction) and in government (with distinction)

## Academic Positions

Associate Professor, University of New Orleans, Fall 2015 – present  
Director, Alexis de Tocqueville Project in Law, Liberty, and Morality, Fall 2011 – present  
Assistant Professor, University of New Orleans, Fall 2012 – Spring 2015  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Tulane University, Fall 2010 – Spring 2012  
Lecturer, Tulane University, Fall 2008 – Spring 2010  
Graduate Teaching Fellow, Boston University, Fall 2005 – Fall 2007

## Areas of Research Specialization and Teaching Competence

### Research Specialization

History of Philosophy (with emphasis on Kant), Moral Philosophy, Political Philosophy, and  
Philosophy of Education

### Teaching Competence

Philosophy of Law, Applied Ethics, and Logic

## Publications

### Books

2. *Kant and the Cultivation of Virtue* (New York: Routledge, 2014)
1. *Kant and Education: Interpretations and Commentary*, co-edited with Klas Roth (New York: Routledge, 2011)

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

11. "Situationism and the Neglect of Moral Education," co-authored with J.P. Messina, in *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, Vol. 18, No. 4 (August, 2015)
10. "Public Morality," in *The Encyclopedia of Political Thought*, edited by Michael Gibbons (New York: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014)
9. "Language in Kant's Practical Philosophy," in *The Linguistic Dimension of Kant's Thought*, edited by Richard Velkley and Frank Schalow (Northwestern University Press, 2014)
8. "Physical Education as a Prerequisite for the Possibility of Human Virtue," *Educational Philosophy and Theory*, Vol. 45, No. 5 (May 2014)
7. "Politics and Practical Wisdom: Rethinking Aristotle's Account of Phronesis," *Topoi*, Vol. 31, No. 2 (October 2012)
6. "Minority Oppression and Justified Revolution," *The Journal of Social Philosophy*, Vol. 41, No. 4 (Winter 2010)

5. "Kant's Contribution to Moral Education: The Relevance of Catechistics," *The Journal of Moral Education*, Vol. 39, No. 2 (June 2010)
4. "Liberty, Autonomy, and Kant's Civil Society," *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, Vol. 27, No. 1 (January 2010)
3. "Kant's Postulate of the Immortality of the Soul," *International Philosophical Quarterly*, Vol. 48, No. 1 (March 2008)
2. "Cultivating Virtue: Moral Progress and the Kantian State," *Kantian Review*, Vol. 12 (2006)
1. "A Reconciliation of Kant's Views on Revolution," *Interpretation: A Journal of Political Philosophy*, Vol. 32, No. 2 (Spring 2005)

### Invited Talks

26. "Exploring a Marketplace of Ideas with Students" (panel discussion); Association for Private Enterprise Education 40th International Conference; Cancun, Mexico (April 14, 2015)
25. "Being a Liberty-Advancing Academic" (panel discussion); Association for Private Enterprise Education 40<sup>th</sup> International Conference; Cancun, Mexico (April 14, 2015)
24. "Kant and the Virtues of a Free Society;" Association for Private Enterprise Education 40<sup>th</sup> International Conference; Cancun, Mexico (April 13, 2015)
23. "Making Men Moral: The Efficacy of Moral Education;" Long Island University, Post; Brookville, NY (February, 17, 2015)
22. "Kant's Moral Education and the Cultivation of Virtue;" North American Kant Society panel on Kant and Education, 2014 American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Convention; Philadelphia, PA (December 29, 2014)
21. "Kant and the Limits of Governmental Authority;" Instituto Bruno Leoni; Milan, Italy (May 8, 2014)
20. "Slavery and the 'Security State' in History and Philosophy" (panel discussion); Association for Private Enterprise Education 39<sup>th</sup> International Conference; Las Vegas, NV (April 14, 2014)
19. "Religious Freedom: A Defense," Young Americans for Liberty Louisiana State Convention; New Orleans, LA (April 5, 2014)
18. "Is Meritocracy Just?" (panel discussion); Kirkland House "Guests for Good" lecture series; Harvard University; Cambridge, MA (March 31, 2014)
17. "Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle: What Can We Learn from Ancient Philosophers?;" One Day University: 2500 Years of History; New York, NY (February 8, 2014)
16. "Virtue and the Good Life;" *Renaissance Weekend*; Charleston, SC (December 31, 2013)
15. "Everything We're Not Supposed to Talk About at the Dinner Table: Reflections on Morality, Religion, and the Law;" *Renaissance Weekend*; Charleston, SC (December 30, 2013)
14. "The Morality of Freedom;" Institute for Humane Studies Speaker Series; Students for Liberty Regional Conference; Loyola University, New Orleans; New Orleans, LA (November 16, 2013)
13. "What Can We Learn from Ancient Philosophers?;" One Day University; Minneapolis, MN (November 2, 2013)
12. "Should Everyone Go to College?" (panel discussion); Society of Philosophers in America Symposium; University of Mississippi; Oxford, MS (November 1, 2013)
11. "Morality, Freedom, and the State;" St. John's College, University of Cambridge; Cambridge, UK (October 13, 2013)
10. "Undergraduate Student Mentoring" (panel discussion); Association for Private Enterprise Education 38<sup>th</sup> International Conference; Maui, HI (April 16, 2013)
9. "Kant and the Cultivation of Virtue;" Colby College; Waterville, ME (March 7, 2013)
8. "The Nature of Morality;" The University of New Orleans; New Orleans, LA (November 16, 2011)
7. "Happiness, Satisfaction, and Real Education;" The Honors Program's *Colloquium Without Walls Lecture Series*; Tulane University; New Orleans, LA (March 23, 2011)
6. "Creating Virtuous Citizens: Happiness and the Aims of Education;" The University of New Orleans; New Orleans, LA (March 16, 2011)
5. "The Moral Implications of Plant Intelligence;" The Newcomb College Institute's *Fridays at Newcomb Lecture Series*; Tulane University; New Orleans, LA (February 11, 2011)
4. "Rebellion and Justified Revolution;" Sweet Briar College; Sweet Briar, VA (March 1, 2010)
3. "Minority Oppression and Justified Revolution;" Mercer University; Macon, GA (February 28, 2010)

2. "Kant and Rousseau on the Virtue of Citizens," West Chester University; West Chester, PA (January 29, 2010)
1. "Liberty, Autonomy, and Kant's Civil Society," Loyola University; New Orleans, LA (April 20, 2009)

### Awards

Named by Questia (a division of Cengage Learning) as one of their "Most Valuable Professors" for 2014, an award honoring three professors in the United States who "have made lasting impressions on the education and lives of their students," F14

University of New Orleans Omicron Delta Kappa Faculty Award (for outstanding teaching and service), University of New Orleans, S14

Named by Princeton Review as one of "The Best 300 Professors in the United States" in *The Princeton Review's Best 300 Professors* (ISBN: 375427589), S12

Machette Paper Prize (best graduate paper), Department of Philosophy, Boston University, S08

John Alden Clark Paper Prize (best paper), Department of Philosophy, Colby College, S05

Laurie Peterson Memorial Award (top junior major), Department of Government, Colby College, S04

John Alden Clark Paper Prize (best paper), Department of Philosophy, Colby College, S04

### Fellowships and Grants

Charles Koch Foundation, Academic Programming Grants (\$109,500), S11-S16

Institute for Humane Studies, Academic Programming Grants (\$15,300), F09-F15

UNO Student Government, Academic Programming Grants (\$23,500), F13-S16

Charles Koch Institute, High School Philosophy Program Grant (\$31,708), F14

Association for Private Enterprise Education, Young Scholars Grants, S14 and S15

UNO Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Creative Endeavor Opportunity Grant (\$2000), Su14

Tulane Center for Engaged Learning and Teaching, Classroom Enhancement Grant (\$5000), F11

Tulane Center for Public Service, Course Development Grant (\$10,000), F09 and F10

Newcomb College Institute, Course Development Grant (\$5000), F10

Dissertation Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Boston University, F08-S09

Teaching Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Boston University, F05-F07

### Academic Service

Book Referee (in some cases multiple times) for Oxford University Press, W.W. Norton & Company, Continuum Books, and Bloomsbury Publishing

Article Referee (in some cases multiple times) for *The Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *The Journal of Social Philosophy*, *Studies in Philosophy and Education*, *The Journal of Moral Education*, and *Human Rights Review*

Committee Member, UNO College of Liberal Arts Courses and Curriculum Committee, S13 –

Tulane Interdisciplinary Experience Seminars (TIDES) Screening Committee, S12

Committee Member, Undergraduate Honors Thesis in Philosophy, "Liberalism and the Problem of Autonomy," F11 – S12

Committee Member, Undergraduate Honors Thesis in Public Health, "The Ethical Basis for Public Health Practice," F11 – S12

Faculty Fellow, Tulane University Newcomb College Institute, F10 – S12

Philosophy Instructor in Bard College's Early College in New Orleans Initiative, S10

Faculty Advisor, Tulane Philosophy Club, F09 – S12

Newcomb-Tulane College U.K. and Ireland Scholarships Nomination Committee, S11

Committee Member, Undergraduate Honors Thesis in Economics, "Contemporary Chinese Economic Policies within the IS-LM-FX Model," F10 – S11

Committee Member, Undergraduate Honors Thesis in Political Science, "Assessing Contemporary Microfinance and Microfinance Institutions," F10 – S11

Faculty Advisory Committee, Global Service League of Tulane, F10 – S11

Director, Independent Study in Philosophy, “Happiness and the Good Life in *Republic*,” F09

## **Courses Taught**

### University of New Orleans

PHIL 4215 – Advanced Social and Political Philosophy (S14)  
PHIL 4205, PHIL 5205 – Environmental Ethics (S13, Su14)  
PHIL 4200 – Health Promotion Ethics (S15)  
PHIL 3201 – Advanced Ethics (F13)  
PHIL 2205 – Social and Political Philosophy (F13, F15)  
PHIL 3301 – Plato (F12, F15)  
PHIL 3302 – Aristotle (F14)  
PHIL 2311 – History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (F12, S14, S15)  
PHIL 2207 – Philosophy of Law (S13, F14, Su15)  
PHIL 2201 – Ethics (S15)  
PHIL 1101 – Introduction to Logic (S14)  
PHIL 1000 – Introduction to Philosophy (F12, S13, F13, F15)

### Tulane University

PHIL 6930, POLT 4020, PHIL 3930 – Plato and Rousseau (F09 and F11)  
PHIL 6930, POLT 4020, PHIL 3930 – Aristotle and Kant (S10 and S12)  
PHIL 6930, POLT 4020, PHIL 3930 – Law, Liberty, and Morality (S11)  
PHIL 6930, POLT 4020, PHIL 3930 – Democracy and Education (F10)  
PHIL 6930 – Philosophy of Education (Su11)  
PHIL 1210 – Elementary Symbolic Logic (every semester F08 – S12)  
PHIL 1030 – Ethics (F10, S11)  
PHIL 1010 – Introduction to Philosophy (F08)  
COLQ 1010 – Honors Freshman Seminar: Community, Polity, and Citizenship I (F11)  
COLQ 1010 – Honors First-Year Seminar: Community, Polity, and Citizenship II (S12)  
TIDES 1550 – The Good Life (F09, F10, F11)

## **Professional References**

Manfred Kuehn, Professor of Philosophy, Boston University  
Ronna Burger, Professor of Philosophy and Sizeler Professor of Jewish Studies, Tulane University  
Edward Johnson, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, University of New Orleans  
Joseph Reiser, Wiswell Associate Professor of Constitutional Law, Colby College